

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05362 291525Z

43

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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R 291430Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4252

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T CAIRO 5362

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON CURRENT ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION BY MIN
STATE RIAD

1. DURING MAY 29 CALL ON RECENTLY APPOINTED MINISTER
OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOHAMMED RIAD, NEWLY
ASSIGNED CONGEN JERUSALEM, MICHAEL NEWLIN,
ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, DISCUSSED WITH HIM CURRENT
ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
JERUSALEM. RIAD CONGRATULATED NEWLIN ON HIS
ASSIGNMENT AND EXPRESSED EGYPTIAN APPRECIATION
FOR CONTINUED US MAINTENANCE OF AUTONOMOUS
CONGEN IN JERUSALEM. HE CONFIRMED THAT EGYPT
STILL HELD TO SAME POSITION RE JERUSALEM, I.E.
THAT IT COULD AGREE TO IT BECOMING "CORPUS
SEPARATUM." HE ALSO INDICATED THAT EGYPT COULD
ACCEPT A RETURN TO PREVIOUS SITUATION OF DIVIDED

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 05362 291525Z

CONTROL OF ISRAELI AND ARAB SECTORS OF CITY.

2. COMMENTING ON CURRENT SITUATION IN LIGHT OF
UPCOMING SALZBURG MEETING, HE NOTED THAT
SECRETARY KISSINGER IS FULLY COGNIZANT OF EGYPTIAN
POSITIONS WHICH HAD BEEN EXPLAINED IN FULL
DETAIL TO HIM BY PRESIDENT SADAT. WHILE RIAD
HOPED HE MIGHT BE WRONG, HE SPEAKING PERSONALLY, DID NOT EXPECT
ANYTHING CONCRETE IN POLITICAL TERMS TO EMERGE
FROM SALZBURG MEETING. HOWEVER, HE HAS BEEN
ASSURING HIS COLLEAGUES THAT, EVEN IF THIS WERE
CASE, MEETING BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS WOULD BE
WORTHWHILE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. IT WOULD ESTABLISH PERSONAL CONTACT
BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS, WHICH WAS LOST WHEN
NIXON RESIGNED. MOREOVER, IF PRESIDENT FORD
DID NOT REJECT SADAT'S VIEWS, THIS WOULD IMPLY
A KIND OF "MORALE OBLIGATION" WITH RESPECT TO
EGYPTIAN POSITIONS.

B. WHILE PRESIDENT FORD WOULD NOT REVEAL
RESULTS OF US POLICY REASSESSMENT (WHICH RIAD FIRMLY
BELIEVES HAS BEEN COMPLETED), HE WOULD PROBABLY
INDICATE BROAD LINES OF APPROACH TO FUTURE
US EFFORTS IN ME AND THIS WOULD BE USEFUL.

C. MEETING WOULD SERVE TO CEMENT BILATERAL
TIES TO WHICH EGYPT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE.

D. THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT EFFORTS
UNDERTAKEN BY UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON MAY RESULT
IN SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC AID WHICH IS DIRELY
NEEDED BY EGYPT TO OVERCOME PRESENT FINANCIAL
PROBLEMS.

3. COMMENT: ON US POLICY REASSESSMENT, RIAD,
AS MENTIONED ABOVE, BELIEVED IT WAS COMPLETED
BUT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE REVEALED, FOR REASONS HE
COULD UNDERSTAND, UNTIL AFTER PRESIDENTIAL
MEETINGS WITH SADAT AND RABIN. INDICATING HIS
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 05362 291525Z

EXPECTATION THAT IT WOULD BE ANNOUNCED LATE IN JUNE,
RIAD NOTED THAT RECENT NY TIMES ARTICLE SUGGESTING
THAT LETTER SUPPORTING ISRAELI SIGNED BY 76
SENATORS WOULD PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON PRESIDENT
FORD'S FLEXIBILITY IN THIS RESPECT.
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